

Message Text

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16

ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 NEA-14 ISO-00 CU-05 ACDA-19 AF-10 ARA-16

EUR-25 RSC-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 USIA-15 EB-11

OMB-01 DRC-01 /203 W

----- 084729

R 100820Z SEP 74

FM AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0847

INFO AMEMBASSY SEOUL

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: UNGA KS KN

SUBJ: KOREA AND SOCCER AT 29TH UNGA

REF: STATE 196841

1. AMBASSADOR AND DCM RAISED KOREAN ISSUE WITH GOK UNDERSEC
FOREIGN AFFAIRS RASHID SEPT 9. PRIMARY POINT WE MADE WAS HOPE
THAT GOK WOULD CONTINUE SUPPORT ON-GOING CONSULTATIONS BETWEEN
NORTH AND SOUTH KOREA AND NOT RPT NOT SUPPORT UNHELPFUL RESOLUTIONS
AIMED AT DISRUPTING THESE TALKS AND FORCING ENTRY OF NORTH KOREA
INTO UN. RASHID INDICATED SUBJECT NOT REALLY FRESH IN HIS MIND
BUT SAID GOK FAVORS UNIFICATION, MAINTENANCE OF DIALOGUE BETWEEN
NORTH AND SOUTH KOREA, AND REMOVAL OF FOREIGN MILITARY FORCES
FROM BOTH COUNTRIES. DCM COUNTERED WITH STRONG VIEW OF USG
THAT UN STILL HAD IMPORTANT ROLE TO PLAY AND THIS NO TIME FOR
ITS REMOVAL.

2. RASHID COMPLAINED THAT SOME COUNTRIES SEEMED BENT ON
MAKING SUPPORT FOR THEM AS DIFFICULT AS POSSIBLE. HE CITED AS
EXAMPLE ALLEGED SPONSORSHIP BY SOUTH KOREA AND THAILAND

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OF ISRAEL FOR MEMBERSHIP ON EXECUTIVE BOARD OF ASIAN GAMES.
WHILE THIS MIGHT APPEAR SMALL MATTER TO MOST PEOPLE, RASHID SAID,

IT LOOMED LARGE IN MINDS KUWAITI MAN IN STREET WHO CLOSELY FOLLOWED KUWAITI SPORTS, ESPECIALLY FOOTBALL (SOCCER) AND WOULD RESENT ANYONE WHO HAD PLACED KUWAIT IN POSITION OF HAVING TO REFUSE TO COMPETE IN GAMES BECAUSE OF NEED TO DEAL WITH BOARD WHICH INCLUDED ISRAELIS. RASHID OPINED ALIENATION OF "FOURTEEN" (ARAB) NATIONS COMPETING IN ASIAN GAMES IN THIS MANNER WAS QUITE UNNECESSARY AND IN FACT HARMFUL TO SOUTH KOREANS WHO NEEDED ASSISTANCE OF KUWAIT AND OTHERS.

3. WHILE WE DO NOT BELIEVE ROK SPONSORSHIP (IF ANY) OF ISRAEL RE ASIAN GAMES LIKELY INFLUENCE GOK ATTITUDE ON KOREAN ISSUE IN US, WE NEVERTHELESS PASSED RASHID'S REMARKS ON THE MATTER TO LOCAL ROK TRADE COMMISSIONER FOR HIS INFO.

STOLTZFUS

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLICIES, MEETING AGENDA
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 10 SEP 1974
Decapton Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decapton Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: kelleyw0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974KUWAIT03825
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740251-0480
From: KUWAIT
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740960/aaaabyvi.tel
Line Count: 75
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION IO
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: STATE 196841
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: kelleyw0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 01 JUL 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <01 JUL 2002 by boyleja>; APPROVED <10 MAR 2003 by kelleyw0>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: KOREA AND SOCCER AT 29TH UNGA
TAGS: PFOR, PORG, KS, KN, US, UNGA
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005